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# Southern COLUMNS

Volume 26

Collegedale, Tennessee, September, 1976

Number 5

## Largest Enrollment Ever at SMC

### Former President Rees Dies in Florida Hospital

Dr. Conard N. Rees, 67, president of SMC from 1958 to 1967, died June 13, 1976, at the Florida Hospital in Orlando. He had been retired after he suffered a stroke at Collegedale in 1967. His wife, Fay Cowin Rees, serves as associate dean of women for SMC on the college's Orlando campus.

Dr. Rees' career for the Seventh-day Adventist educational system covered 32 years. He was a graduate of Union College, Lincoln, class of '31, and the University of Nebraska conferred the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees upon him.

His first educational position was coach and principal of Denton High School, Denton, Nebr. He was then dean of boys at Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Va.; and principal of Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, Md.

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"1776 in 1976" was the goal for enrollment at Southern Missionary College. Willard Gustavsen, center, was the 1776th student. Welcoming him to the campus is Dr. Frank Knittel, President of SMC, left, and Kenneth Spears, Director of Admissions and Records. The registration has reached 1817 since.

The enrollment at SMC for the new school year has now passed 1776 students, according to Kenneth Spears, director of admissions and records.

The figure marked an all-time high and had been sought by the college in accordance with the bicentennial spirit. The slogan for student recruitment was "1776 in 1976."

Total registration last year, as of September 17, was 1667. By the time all late-registering students are processed this year, tentative estimates place the total enrollment at about 1817.

One thousand seventy-six students are returning; 700 are new students. The breakdown into sex categories indicates 810 men and 966 women.

Five hundred and twenty-five students registered as beginning freshmen; 119 as second year freshmen; 412 as sophomores; 280 as juniors; 114 as associate seniors; 240 as baccalaureate seniors; 76 as special students; 10 as post graduate students.

The five majors with the largest enrollment are: Nursing, 473; Theology and Religion, 218; Early Childhood and Elementary Education, 166; Business and Accounting, 156; Biology, 136.

Other Collegedale schools' enrollments were 316 for the Collegedale Academy and 410 for Spalding Elementary School.



C. N. Rees

## President Rees

(continued from page 1)

His college work started when he became head of the department of education at Washington Missionary College (now Columbia Union College), Takoma Park, Md. He was promoted to academic dean of that institution in 1952, serving in that capacity until he was elected president of Southwestern Junior College (now Southwestern Union College), Keene, Texas.

In 1958, the Board of Trustees invited Dr. Rees to be president of SMC. During his nine years as president, SMC's accomplishments were many. He developed the master plan for the campus, which has been carried out to the present time, including the accreditation of SMC's nursing program by the National League for Nursing, and the accreditation of the elementary teacher education program.

Three former presidents of SMC have died during the past year: Dr. Lynn H. Wood, 1918-1922; Professor Kenneth A. Wright, 1943-1955; and Dr. C. N. Rees, 1958-1967.

Gifts for the C. N. Rees Memorial Fund, a fund for special projects for SMC, will be accepted by the Alumni Association.

## Southern California Chapter News

The graduates of SMC who reside in the Southern California area met in June in San Bernardino.

Dr. Frank Knittel, SMC's president, was the featured speaker. He narrated colored slides and told about the progress of the college. Dr. Minon Hamm, current president of SMC's Alumni Association, presided over the meeting.

Mrs. Elva B. Gardner, former registrar and Alumni Secretary of SMC from 1949-58, died on June 24, 1976, at Pine Forest Hospital in Chunky, Miss. She was the editor of *SMC: A School of His Planning*.



The new addition to Thatcher Hall (women's residence hall) has been started and hopefully will be completed shortly after second semester begins. Jack Tyler and Associates, architects, have submitted this artist's conception of how the new building will look.

## Alumni Homecoming Program Revealed

"The Spirit of SMC" will be the Alumni Homecoming theme this bicentennial year as the classes of 1926, 1951, and 1966 will be honored. Dr. Minon Hamm, Professor of English and the Alumni Association's current president, "anticipates 350 Alumni and their families on the weekend of October 15 and 16."

Jamile Jacobs, an honor graduate of '51, will be the guest speaker at 8:00 p.m., Friday. Jacobs is a former missionary and his sermon theme will be "The Spirit of Missions." SMC student missionaries who have returned from Nicaragua will also participate in this vespers program.

Featured speaker for Sabbath morning church services will be Elder Rainey Hooper, former missionary and presently Florida conference evangelist. Elder Hooper is also from the class of '51 and will present "The Spirit of Worship."

The Senior Sabbath School Superintendent, dubbed by many as "Mr. SMC," and who is one of three honorary alumni, who has been a "fixture" at SMC since 1946, will be Charles Fleming, Jr.

A concert by the SMC department of music with Dr. Marvin Robertson, Chairman, will be presented at 3:00 Sabbath afternoon.

Highlighting the homecoming will be a buffet supper for Alumni in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Mr. William Taylor, Public Relations chairman at SMC, will interview and introduce each returning alumnus from the honor classes. There will be a short worship after the meal to close the Sabbath day and then a business meeting will be held to announce the new officers for the Alumni Association and to inaugurate the new president—Mr. Jake Atkins, '49.

The Saturday night program will be presented by William Warfield, an outstanding singer of opera and television fame, who will give a concert of classical and secular music. His renditions of "Old Man River" and the songs from "Porgy and Bess" are world famous. He has made several cultural trips around the world under the auspices of the U.S. State Department.

Warfield will give a master class in voice to the Music Department on Friday, and on Sunday he will give his famous program on the history of the Negro spiritual to SMC students.

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### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, 1975-76

Minon A. Hamm, '66	President
Jake L. Atkins, '49	President-Elect
Ellsworth McKee, '54	Past President
Sheila Rae Myers, '73	Secretary
Louise Walther, '46	Asst. Secretary
Winford Tate, '60	Treasurer
Laura Gladson, '65	Publicity Secretary

# Those Who Walked These Halls

1925

Merrill O. Dart, M.D., now of Denver, Col., celebrated his 70th birthday at a dinner at Loma Linda University Hospital with members of his family and 44 guests who had been fellow teachers from Southern Training School, Graysville, Tenn., Southern Junior College, Washington Missionary College, and Loma Linda University.

Jean W. (Wingate) Schill writes from Hendersonville, N.C., that she is a member of a "retired" association that is really effective. It is responsible for the starting of a new church and when it is completed the association will help to implement a fine community service program. Many of the retired ministers are called to sections of the country for speaking engagements, "so don't underestimate the retired alumni!"

1926

Elaine Elizabeth Yeast Eldridge and her husband Robert M., retired from the Southern Publishing Association, report they are building up the one and only SDA church in Humphreys County, Tenn. They live at Rt. 1, Box 252, New Johnsonville, Tenn. 37134.

1927

Walter B. Clark continues his interest in SMC and reminds his classmates that next year will be their 50th anniversary. "There are only 10 in our class and I would like to encourage the eight surviving members to attend Homecoming at SMC next year." Walter is retired from his duties as Dean of Admissions at Loma Linda University and has visited all of our colleges many times.

Forrest Bishop writes from Miami, Fla., that he has been active in the construction industry and just retired recently from a two hundred million dollar project, where he served on the technical staff. He would like to hear from old friends.

1938

Flora Edith Lester says that after an active career of teaching for many years she did volunteer teaching at Forest Lake Elementary Education Center.

1944

Elouise Wynn Smith writes that she has worked at Kettering Medical Center for the past three years in medical records and pathology, doing medical transcription.

1947

Alice Perkins Kimber informs that when she and her husband retire from their present employment in about three years, they will apply for volunteer service in Africa, where they formerly worked as missionaries. At present Alice is a social worker for Florida Social and Economic Services, and her husband is a technician at the Florida Adventist Hospital in Orlando.

Billy Page Haskell is serving as Conference secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.

1949

William Warren Oakes is director of personnel since 1965 at Florida Adventist Hospital in Orlando, which he reports is the largest hospital facility in the denomination with 833 licensed beds and over 2,000 employees. Mrs. Oakes, the former Mildred Fadie, has been on renal dialysis for the past four years. They would like to hear from friends.

1953

Chester L. Jordan is Porter Memorial Hospital Chaplain and has recently developed a program for Alcoholics Awareness, sponsored by the hospital. This program utilizes law officers, medical personnel, and Alcoholics Anonymous along with SDA ministry Persons convicted of driving under the

influence of alcohol (DUI's) are sentenced by the Court to attend the sessions in lieu of jail terms.

1958

James D. Peel is Bible teacher at Fletcher Academy and reports that he attended the Spirit of Prophecy workshop at Columbia Union College sponsored by the E. G. White Estates.

1959

Donald W. Wilson is president of Castleton State College in Castleton, Vermont 05735. He says he likes the recreational facilities available in his small community, and is looking forward to working in his new position.

1962

James A. Tucker is presently educational program director for the Department of Special Education, Texas Education Agency, and director of the Texas Regional Resource Center, a federally funded program for the handicapped. He is the author of the 1976 junior devotional book, *Windows on God's World*. He reports that he founded the American Birding Association in 1969. Address is P.O. Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78765, for all those interested.

1965

Donald R. Parrish writes that he is presently dean of students at Monteverde Academy, in Florida.

1969

Ellen Petersen Thompson writes that she is presently living in South England where her husband is pastoring the Portsmouth church. They recently moved there from Scotland where they had been living while her husband, Steven Thompson, received the Ph.D. degree last summer. They have two daughters, Lisa, 5, and Kristina, 3.

1976

Duane and June Anderson moved to Loma Linda, Calif., in October and Duane will be starting medical school in March of '77. He would like his friends to know his new address for the next three years: 11244 Exeter St., Loma Linda, Calif. 92354.

Philip and Debra Worley, Rt. 2, Statesboro, Ga. 30458, would like to report their new positions. He is pastor-teacher at Statesboro church and head teacher at SMC preschool.

## MARRIAGES

The wedding of Nancy Lee Andress '75 and Bruce Roy Briner took place on July 11, 1976, at the Bucks County Seventh-day Adventist church, Warminster, Pa. Pastor Richard Wuttke, Bible teacher at Blue Mountain Academy and a graduate of SMC, performed the ceremony. The couple spent five weeks in Japan for their honeymoon visiting the bride's brother, who is teaching English there. They are making their home in Allentown, Pa.

## BIRTHS

Harold and Carole Lynn (Hunt) Chapman, '73, announce the birth of Craig Allan on July 3, 1976.

Edwin, '72, and Linda Cook report the birth of their daughter Erin Elizabeth on August 10, 1976.

Alicia Delynn, born December 29, 1975, to Joseph, '68, and Mary Helen Hodges. Joe teaches eighth grade math near Augusta, Ga. They also have a son, Timothy Joseph, age seven.

Vickie Lynn Robb was born on May 9, 1976, to Judy and Mark Robb. Judy is the former Judy Lee Bentzinger, '71.

Twins George Edward and Holly Ann, were born on July 18, 1976, to Marilyn Jo (Cundiff) and Kenneth Edward Sliger. Marilyn graduated in 1974. George weighed 3 lbs., 4 oz., and Holly Ann weighed only 2 lbs., 9 oz. Both are reported well at this time.

Donald Eugene Stair, Jr., was born on March 2, 1976, to Kay and Don Stair, '72. They are now residing in Cleburne, Texas, where Don is earning a second degree, BBA in Health Care Administration, in May, 1977.

## DEATHS

HASSENPLUG, Edward, died July 17, 1976, in Ardmore, Okla. He was a member of SJC '31. He was a retired hospital administrator and accountant. He was buried in Valley View, Texas.

WOOD, Benjamin A., brother of J. Mabel Wood, died in Lakeland, Fla., on July 25, 1976. He was a former manager of the College Press.

WALLACK, Ann Consuelo, wife of Development Director Dwight S. Wallack, died in Collegedale on August 4, 1976.

## Alumni Homecoming

Honor Classes — '26, '51, '66

October 15-16

# School History Book Will Be Distributed

The revision of the official history book, *SMC: A School of His Planning*, has been completed and is ready for distribution to SMC graduates. The book was completed by Miss Mabel Wood, former Alumni editor of the SOUTHERN COLUMNS, just weeks before she died.

Mr. William Taylor, Public Relations director, finished proofreading it. Starkey Printing Company of Chattanooga lithographed it and had it bound in a gold leatherette cover embossed with a red and white drawing of Wright Hall. It contains 356 pages.

The book is a narrative of 80 years of growth and development of Southern Missionary College from 1892 to 1972, and was written by Elva B. Gardner, former registrar, and revised by Mabel Wood.

Graduates may order the book from the Public Relations Office for \$10.00 on the order blank at the bottom of this page. Please include your year of graduation and your current address so that we may keep our files current.

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## Dr. Ray Hefferlin Returns From Visit To Russian Labs

Dr. Ray Hefferlin, chairman of SMC's Physics Department, has recently returned from a month's stay in Europe, where he visited science laboratories in Russia, Switzerland, France, and Austria.

Because the United States has signed a treaty with Russia permitting the exchange of cultural and scientific information between the two countries, it is now easier to travel and visit in Russia. Dr. Hefferlin took advantage

of the opportunity during his sabbatical year to work for a period at Oak Ridge and to visit in Europe.

He arrived in Moscow on September 8 and was scheduled to visit Moscow University Physics department, and if permitted, a high school science laboratory. From there he went to Leningrad to see Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute, a national research laboratory.

A post card sent to the SMC student body stated that he had also visited the Museum of the History of Religion and Atheism, in which there was a Foucault pendulum of the rotation of the earth.

In Zurich, on his way home, he visited the University of Zurich Physics department, and in Paris he went to CENS (European Nuclear Center at Saclay).

Hefferlin is one of the few American professors permitted to visit these displays.

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## Dr. Don Dick Returns From Faith for Today Directional Duties

Dr. Donald Dick, chairman of the Communication Department, has returned to the campus after a year spent in directing and producing the denomination's television program, *Faith for Today*, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

He reports that the experience he gained is invaluable, and in turn, he contributed greatly to the Center administrative staff during the past year. Viewers may expect to see his credit line on up-coming shows of the new programming season.

James Hannum, '65, another Communication department staff member, is now the current producer of *Faith for Today*. He was asked to take over the duties last August, and will be responsible for the new programs as well as coordinating the work at the Media Center in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

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## Order Blank for SMC History Book

To: Public Relations Office  
Southern Missionary College  
Collegedale, Tennessee 37315

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *SMC: A School of His Planning* at \$10.00 each. I enclose my payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_. My current name and address follow:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



